RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 8th December, 2004/17 *Agrahayana*, 1926 (*Saka*)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Steps to increase employment opportunities in rural areas

*101. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of unemployed persons in rural areas of the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) whether any evaluation of the Central Government's programmes to increase employment opportunities in the rural areas in the country has been made by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

As per the 5th quinquennial round, (1999-2000) of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on employment and unemployment, unemployed persons on Current Daily Status (CDS) are estimated at 19.49 million in rural areas of the country and the number of unemployed persons in rural areas of Maharashtra are estimated at 1.57 million.

The Ministry of Rural Development has conducted evaluation of the programmes of the Ministry to increase employment opportunities in the rural areas of the country. The various micro and macro level Evaluation and Impact Studies sponsored by the Ministry have revealed that there has been a positive impact of various rural development programmes on employment generation.

The findings of the Concurrent Evaluation on Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) have shown that there has been substantial increase in the number of mandays of employment generated under these programmes over the years.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill

£*117. SHRI MURLI DEORA:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill during the Winter Session;

(b) if so, the salient features of the draft Bill;

(c) the amount required for the implementation of this scheme; and

(d) whether States would also share the burden of this scheme and if so, the percentage thereof and whether the scheme would be applicable in those States too who are incapable of contributing?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The proposal to enact a Central Legislation for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which aims to enhance livelihood security to poor households in rural areas by providing atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every poor household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual labour, is under consideration of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since Question Nos. 101 and 117 are connected, they are clubbed together.

SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Sir, under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, the Centre allots foodgrains to the States for free distribution to the labourers under the Food-for-Work-Programme. How much quantity of foodgrains had been allotted by the Centre to the States so far; and how much quantity of foodgrains have been lifted by the States, particularly, the State of Maharashtra?

श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह: सभापति महोदय, हम सम्पूर्ण ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना में 50 लाख टन अनाज देश भर के सभी राज्यों को देते हैं। फूड फॉर वर्क जो नया प्रोग्राम अब शुरू हुआ है, उसमें दो हजार बीस करोड़ नगद और 20 लाख टन अनाज अभी जो देश के चुने हुए 150 जिलों में, जो पिछड़े हुये हैं, जहां दलितों और आदिवासियों की संख्या अधिक है, जो इस क्राइटेरिया के आधार पर चुने गये हैं, उन जिलों में लागू किया गया है। अभी 14 नवम्बर को पंडित जवाहर लाल

£Question Nos. 101 and 117 were taken together.